

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are currently pending and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 103 in view of Mandler and further in view of Bhatt.

In the Office Action dated October 19, 2005, the Examiner stated that the "Applicant's novel feature appears to be a publish-and-subscribe system for distributing RFQ's utilizing filters for discriminating against certain potential message recipients based on preferences provided by the user." The Examiner goes on to assert that this is obvious in view of the prior art. However, there are additional features of the present invention that are novel and nonobvious when combined with the publish-and-subscribe system for distributing RFQ's. The claims have been amended to recite these additional features. These limitations are not taught or shown in Mandler or Bhatt, alone or in combination and would not have been obvious *at the time of the invention*.

The amended claims recite the novel feature of using a multicast protocol to transmit the message to the multiple e-business entities, thereby relieving the first entity (e.g., the e-business buyer) from having to know or make any adjustments to account for the multiple computer system protocols on which the e-business entities, who will be receiving the message, may operate. This is a significant advantage for the first entity because the feature allows the entity to get its message across to numerous e-business entities without having to make adjustments in transmission protocols, communication links, or any of the other issues that arise when dealing with possibly disparate computer system protocols.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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